

## **AIMS UPDATE**

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### DISTRIBUTION

We recommend that recipients of the AIMS Update communicate the information to superintendents, charter holders, principals, teachers, special education directors, counselors, assistant principals, students, and parents.

### FALL HIGH SCHOOL AIMS RE-TEST

**The October 21-23, 2002 AIMS administration scheduled for students enrolled in grades 11 and 12 that have not yet met the standard in reading, writing, or mathematics **HAS BEEN CANCELLED.****

### STATE TESTING SCHEDULE – SPRING 2003

#### **Stanford 9 – Grades 2 – 9**

Administration dates: March 17 – May 1, 2003

Test materials delivered no later than February 14, 2003

Scorable materials received by Harcourt no later than May 9, 2003

#### **AIMS – Grades 3, 5, and 8**

Administration dates: April 28 – May 9, 2003

Test materials delivered no later than March 31, 2003

Scorable materials received by Harcourt no later than May 20, 2003

**AIMS – High School:** All Grade 10 students, and all grade 11 and 12 students who have not yet achieved “Meets the Standard” in reading, writing, or mathematics will be tested.

#### Writing – February 25, 2003

Students whose IEP specifies the use of an out-of-level writing test will be tested between April 28 and May 9, 2003.

Test materials delivered no later than January 28, 2003

Scorable materials received by Harcourt no later than March 10, 2003

#### Mathematics – April 28, 2003

Test materials delivered no later than March 31, 2003

Scorable materials received by Harcourt no later than May 20, 2003

#### Reading – April 29, 2003

Test materials delivered no later than March 31, 2003

Scorable materials received by Harcourt no later than May 20, 2003

## PRE-TEST WORKSHOPS – LESSONS LEARNED

- ❑ Representatives from Harcourt and the Department of Education appreciate the positive comments regarding the value and quality of the pre-test workshops held in February and March of 2002. We believe that your attendance at the meetings made a significant contribution to the reduction of alerts and to the successful implementation of the 2002 tests. Upon reflection, we realize that the quantity of alerts could have been further reduced by providing you with the following information in the workshops.
- ❑ Please use the official name of your school when you communicate with ADE. For example, if your “official name” is the Arizona Academy for Approaching the Apex of Academic Altitude, please do not use A.A.A.A.A.A. when communicating with us. On campus and at faculty meetings, your school may be known as Smith Elementary, but to ADE and Harcourt, it is known as Robert K. Smith Elementary School.
- ❑ Do not combine sites when sending scorable materials to Harcourt. For example, please do not put student answer documents for students who attend Smith School and Jones School under one Scoring Service Identification (SSID) sheet identified as, “Jones School.” Reports will be returned in the name of Jones School only. Smith School will be treated as a school that did not test. If a site has been issued a CTDS number then, regardless of the internal organizational structure or the culture, it is a school. Schools must return scorable materials for each site with proper SSID and Master File Sheets (MFS).
- ❑ Even though the Stanford 9 test booklet contains instructions for the use of a calculator, Arizona does not allow the use of calculators. The Stanford 9 is normed with and without the use of calculators. The norming group from which Arizona’s norms are developed did not use calculators during the mathematics test.
- ❑ The testing cycle concludes with sending the tracking information to the Department of Education.
- ❑ Please use the labels provided by Harcourt to return materials. Do not mail answer documents to the Scoring Center.

## CURRENT INFORMATION – 2003 ADVANCED NOTICE

On August 22-23, 2002, ADE representatives Anabel Aportela, Charlie Bruen, Ron Carriveau, David Garcia, and Paul Young, along with special guests Kay Cassidy, Alex Duran, Traci Sawyer, Jerry D’Agostino, and Christy Farley attended a Stanford 9/AIMS planning meeting to discuss and share ideas that will improve our testing program. Following, please find the comments, decisions, and items of interest that resulted from the planning session.

- ❑ **Test coordinators are urged to destroy all unused Stanford 9 and AIMS answer documents. AIMS booklets should be returned to Harcourt. If you have not returned your AIMS test booklets from previous administrations; please contact Barbara Dillard at 1-800-999-5941, extension 5645 for instructions regarding the return of secure materials.**
- ❑ The planning meeting opened with Harcourt’s request that ADE offer a sincere and enthusiastic thank you to the districts and charter schools for their cooperation throughout the spring 2002 administration of the tests. The administration of both tests went very well with results returned on time and a significant reduction in both the number and severity of alerts.

- ❑ The designations UE (Ungraded Elementary) and US (Ungraded Secondary) will be removed from AIMS answer documents.
- ❑ Writing prompts need to be field tested at all grade levels. The Department of Education will consult with AzTAC to develop strategies to accomplish the necessary field testing.
- ❑ AIMS test booklets will be packaged in bundles of ten with black bands placed at graduated intervals along the edge of each booklet to facilitate counting booklets.
- ❑ Reading, writing, and mathematics items written last summer will be embedded in 2003 grade 3, 5, 8, and high school operational test booklets. Items that are being field tested are evenly distributed through five forms of each subtest. The first page of the non-test indicators of each AIMS answer document will contain a section that will require the identification of the form use by the examinee. District or school personnel should grid in this bubble.
- ❑ The Department of Education will begin the development of a policy that will hold districts and charter holders accountable if AIMS test materials ordered are in excess of the number scored. The policy will become effective in 2004.
- ❑ Individual Student Reports for students who took the high school test and gridded grade 11 or grade 12 plus the special education bubble contained the notation “Out of Level” in 2002. The Individual Student Reports for the high school test for future reports will not contain the “Out of Level” notation for any grade 10, 11, or 12 students.
- ❑ AIMS high school reports will be identified as “High School” rather than “Test Level: 10”.
- ❑ The Grade Equivalent score will be removed from all Stanford 9 reports.
- ❑ The possibility of implementing an on-line process for ordering test materials for the 2003 administration is being investigated and considered. Two representatives from ADE are reviewing a proposal and will respond to Harcourt within a few weeks. Details will follow.
- ❑ It will not be necessary to grid in “9” in column “I” in the “Other Information” section of the answer document to exclude students who have been provided modifications as specified in their IEPs. Gridding in any bubble from 1-8 in column “J” will remove the score from the summary data.
- ❑ The term “significant accommodations” that appears on the Individual Student and Parent Reports will be eliminated in favor of the term “modifications.”

## SCORES AND REPORTS

Questions or comments regarding the 2002 AIMS reports should be referred to either the Harcourt Scoring Hotline at 1-800-328-5999 or Duane Manning, contract program manager, at 1-800-228-0752, ext. 5614.

## REQUEST FOR DATA

All requests for electronic student level data for both the Stanford 9 and AIMS should be addressed to the Research and Policy Section. The phone number is 602-542-5151. You may request your data by contacting Ildiko Laczko-Kerr at [ilaczko@ade.az.gov](mailto:ilaczko@ade.az.gov).

## DEPARTING COLLEAGUES AND FRIENDS

It is with mixed feelings that I report to you that Dr. Kavemui Murangi and Kathy Scott have left the Department of Education. Kavemui has accepted a position with Westat and will join his wife and daughter in Washington D. C. Kathy has accepted the principalship of Red Mesa Elementary School. We thank our colleagues for their contribution to standards-based education and to the state’s testing program and wish them good fortune in their new assignments. We will miss them.